

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 6361

To amend the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to set aside community development block grant amounts in each fiscal year for grants to local chapters of veterans service organizations for the renovation, rehabilitation, and modernization of local chapter facilities.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 9, 2023

Ms. WATERS (for herself, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CARBAJAL, and Mr. BOWMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

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## A BILL

To amend the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to set aside community development block grant amounts in each fiscal year for grants to local chapters of veterans service organizations for the renovation, rehabilitation, and modernization of local chapter facilities.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Service Orga-  
5 nization Modernization Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. COMPETITIVE GRANTS TO VETERANS SERVICE OR-**  
2 **GANIZATIONS FOR FACILITY REHABILITA-**  
3 **TION AND MODERNIZATION.**

4 (a) GRANTS.—Section 107 of the Housing and Com-  
5 munity Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5307) is  
6 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-  
7 section:

8 “(g) COMPETITIVE GRANTS TO VETERANS SERVICE  
9 ORGANIZATIONS FOR FACILITY REHABILITATION AND  
10 UPGRADING TECHNOLOGY.—

11 “(1) AUTHORITY; ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES AND  
12 USES.—Using the amounts made available under  
13 section 106(a)(4) in each fiscal year for grants  
14 under this subsection, the Secretary shall make  
15 grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible veterans  
16 service organizations, which grant amounts shall be  
17 available for use only for—

18 “(A) repairs or rehabilitation of existing  
19 facilities of such organizations; and

20 “(B) modernization of technologies used by  
21 such organizations.

22 “(2) ELIGIBLE VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZA-  
23 TIONS.—For purposes of this subsection, the term  
24 ‘eligible veterans service organization’ means—

25 “(A) an entity that—

1           “(i) is organized on a local or area  
2 basis; and

3           “(ii) is—

4                   “(I) exempt from taxation pursu-  
5 ant to section 501(c)(19) of the Inter-  
6 nal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C.  
7 501(c)(19)); or

8                   “(II) an organization of past or  
9 present members of the Armed Forces  
10 of the United States that is chartered  
11 under title 36, United States Code;  
12 and

13           “(B) a local or area chapter, post, or other  
14 unit of a national, regional, statewide, or other  
15 larger entity of which local or area chapters,  
16 posts, or units are members—

17                   “(i) that is exempt from taxation pur-  
18 suant to section 501(c)(19) of the Internal  
19 Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C.  
20 501(c)(19)); or

21                   “(ii) which larger entity is an organi-  
22 zation of past or present members of the  
23 Armed Forces of the United States that is  
24 chartered under title 36, United States  
25 Code.

1           “(3) LIMITATIONS.—

2                   “(A) AMOUNT.—No eligible veterans serv-  
3           ice organization may receive grant amounts  
4           under this subsection, from the amounts made  
5           available for any single fiscal year, in an  
6           amount exceeding the lesser of—

7                           “(i) the aggregate cost of the pro-  
8                           posed activities and uses under paragraph  
9                           (1) for which the grant amounts will be  
10                          used; or

11                                  “(ii) \$100,000.

12                          “(B) TIMING.—Any eligible veterans serv-  
13           ice organization that receives grant amounts  
14           under this subsection from amounts made avail-  
15           able for a fiscal year shall be ineligible for any  
16           grant from any amounts made available for  
17           such grants for any of the succeeding three fis-  
18           cal years.

19                          “(4) APPLICATIONS.—Applications for assist-  
20           ance under this subsection may be submitted only by  
21           eligible veterans service organizations, and shall be  
22           in such form and in accordance with such proce-  
23           dures as the Secretary shall establish. Such applica-  
24           tions shall include a plan for the proposed repair or

1 rehabilitation activities to be conducted using grant  
2 amounts under this subsection.

3 “(5) SELECTION; CRITERIA.—The Secretary  
4 shall select applications to receive grants under this  
5 subsection pursuant to a competition and based on  
6 criteria for such selection, which shall include—

7 “(A) the extent of need for such assist-  
8 ance;

9 “(B) the quality of the plan proposed for  
10 repair or rehabilitation of the facility involved;

11 “(C) the capacity or potential capacity of  
12 the applicant to successfully carry out the plan;  
13 and

14 “(D) such other factors as the Secretary  
15 determines to be appropriate.

16 “(6) PROHIBITION OF CONSTRUCTION OR AC-  
17 QUISSION.—No amounts from a grant under this  
18 subsection may be used for the construction or ac-  
19 quisition of a new facility.”.

20 (b) FUNDING.—Subsection (a) of section 106 of the  
21 Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42  
22 U.S.C. 5306(a)) is amended—

23 (1) in paragraph (4), by striking “and (3)”  
24 and inserting “(3), and (4)”;

1           (2) by redesignating paragraph (4) as para-  
2           graph (5); and

3           (3) by inserting after paragraph (3) the fol-  
4           lowing new paragraph:

5           “(4) For each fiscal year, after reserving  
6           amounts under paragraphs (1) and (2) and allo-  
7           cating amounts under paragraph (3), the Secretary  
8           shall allocate \$10,000,000 (subject to sufficient  
9           amounts remaining after such reservations and allo-  
10          cation) for grants under section 107(g).”.

11          (c) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Housing and  
12          Urban Development shall issue any regulations necessary  
13          to carry out sections 106(a)(4) and 107(g) of the Housing  
14          and Community Development Act of 1974, as added by  
15          the amendments made by this section, not later than the  
16          expiration of the 90-day period beginning on the date of  
17          the enactment of this Act.

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